

G R E A T

Doubts and Difficulties

To be Resolved by the Good People of

ENGLAND.

I. **W**H O are most likely to be Bribe'd with *French Lui d'Ores*, they who give Kingdoms to Advance the Power of *France*, or they who Unanimously Vote to Reduce the Power of *France*?

II. Who are most likely to be Bribe'd by the *French King*, they who send out Fleets and Armies to Destroy him, or they who create Factions and Divisions in *England* to Save him?

III. But who are most likely to be Bribe'd with *French Lui d'Ores*, they who have great Estates and Families in their Countries, and cannot preserve them without Opposing *France*, or they who have got vast Estates by Defrauding the King and the People, and cannot preserve them, without the Power of *France* to Protect them?

IV. Whether is more easie, and more agreeable to the Practice and Policy of *France*, to Corrupt a few Powerful Ministers, that can make Certain and Valuable Returns, or Four or Five hundred Members of Parliament, that can only promise Uncertain Votes, which, unless the King, and the Lords do concur, are worth nothing?

V. But who are most likely to take *French Money*, they who have always Defended the Rights and Liberties of the People, or they who have frequently Betrayed them?

VI. Who are most likely to be Corrupted with *French Money*, they who have been true to their Country, and resisted Temptations, or they who have greedily swallowed all they could get?

VII. But who are most likely to take Bribes, they who both take and offer *English Bribes*, or they who have ever refused either?

VIII. Who are most likely to Betray their Country, they who spend their Estates in Serving their Country, or they who get their Estates by Selling their Country?

IX. Who are the best Trustees for the People, they who have received Twenty four Millions of good *English Money*, and (to their eternal shame) have not yet rendred an Account for the same, or they who desire an Honest and Just Account thereof, for Payment of the Publick Debts?

X. Whether then it be not the Interest and Policy of some Persons, to send their own Bribes to be Coined at the *Tower*, in order to lay their own Villanies and Corruptions on the Honest Parliament?

XI. Whether the Prosecution of Criminals, for Corruption and Bribery, and Betraying the Interest of their Country, be not the true Cause of all these False and Malicious Reports against the Parliament?

XII. Who was it that cry'd out *Whore* first? Was it the Innocent and Virtuous *Susannah*, or was it the Vicious and Corrupt Officers of Justice?

XIII. Which Cause is usually Managed with greatest Art and Industry, a good Cause or a bad Cause?

XIV. Why are there so many Scribblers employed to write against the Parliament, and so many Agents sent to every County, to Corrupt the Minds of the People, is it out of Charity to the People, or Fear of Punishment to themselves?

XV. Whether notorious Bribery, to corrupt the Elections of Parliament-Men, to Poyson the Fountain, and Destroy the Fundamental Constitution of the Government, be a Crime or not? If not, then let this Parliament be Dissolved, and the Authors of the *Legion* be chosen in their Places.

XVI. Whether the great Labour and Expence of some Persons, to get Petitions to Dissolve the Parliament, be not in order to play the same Game over again, and by Bribery and Corruption to Save themselves, and Ruine the Nation?

XVII.

XVII. Whether a formal Hypocrite, that endeavours to perswade a Wife to have an ill opinion of her Husband, does not intend to Debauch the Wife, and Ruine the Family ? And.

XVIII. Whether they, who endeavour to perswade the People to have an ill Opinion of their Representatives, (who are their Second Selves) do not intend to Debauch the People, and Ruine the Kingdom ?

XIX. Whether the House of Commons had not Granted all the Supplies, and Voted Three Shillings in the Pound, before the *Kentish* Petition was Exhibited ?

XX. Whether the House of Commons did not, on Feb. 20. present an Humble Address to His Majesty. *That he would be pleased to enter into such Negotiations, in Concert with the States-General of the United Provinces, and other Potentates, as may most effectually Conduce to the Mutual Safety of these Kingdoms and the States General, and the Preservation of the Peace of Europe ; and giving him Assurances of Support and Assistance, in performance of the Treaty made with the States General the 3d of March, 1677 ?* And whether the King did not heartily Thank the House for their Advice, and Unanimous Resolution ?

XXI. Whether a Declaration of Performance of that Treaty, which obliged England, upon the first Assault made upon the Dutch, to furnish them with Ten Thousand Men and Twenty Ships ; and if an Honourable and Safe Peace were not obtained in two Months after, then to Assist the Dutch with all their Strength, were not in effect a Declaration of War, as soon as the Dutch were Insulted by the French ?

XXII. Whether there were any other difference between a Declaration of Performance of that Treaty, and an Actual Declaration of War, but only this, That in one Case England would Engage as an Assistant, and in the other as Principal in the War ?

XXIII. Whether then was most for the Interest of England, To Engage as Principal, and bear almost all the Charges of the War, (as they did in the last, which cost above Sixty Millions) or to Engage as Assistant upon the foot of the said Treaty, and bear their proportion of Charge with the Emperor and the Dutch ?

XXIV. Whether it does not now appear, That by the Prudence and Conduct of the Parliament, the Dutch have gained Time to put themselves in a Posture of Defence, and thereby been saved from sudden Destruction ? And whether many Millions of Effects, belonging to the English and Dutch Merchants, have not been Preserved from Seizure ? And consequently, many honest Families from utter Ruine and Desolation ?

XXV. Whether the King was not the best Judge of the Time of Declaring War ? And if a speedy Declaration thereof had been Necessary at the beginning of the Sessions, or Safe for England, in any other Manner than was done, whether His Majesty would not have been Graciously pleased to have signified his Pleasure to the House in that, as well as in other Matters relating theunto ?

XXVI. Whether the House of Commons did not readily comply with His Majesty in every thing ? And whether His Majesty has not frequently Acknowledged the same, and declared his Satisfaction with all their Proceedings ?

XXVII. Who then are the best Judges of the Proceedings of the House of Commons, the King, or the Authors of the *Legion* ?

XXVIII. When any two therefore differ in Opinion upon a plain Matter of Fact, why may they not differ also in Interest ?

XXIX. *Quære* therefore very seriously, Whether the Interest of the King, and the Interest of some Persons, who call themselves the King's Friends, be One and the Same, or Two distinct Interests ?

XXX. Why the same Persons, who first press'd the Commons so hastily for Supplies, did afterwards press the Lords to Delay the same, to the prejudice of the Publick, in favour of a private Interest ?

XXXI. Whether then there was any Occasion for the *Kentish* Petition, or the *Legion* Paper, after the Parliament had Granted every thing that was Required, or thought Necessary ? Or whether the same had ever been thought of, if the Commons had not Prosecuted Offenders, for Corruption and Bribery, for Betraying their Country, and Defrauding the King and the People ?

XXXII. Upon the whole Matter, *Who are the wisest Pupils, they who follow their Guardians Advice, or they who are Angry with their Guardians for kicking the Sharpers down Stairs ?*

P O S T S C R I P T.

YOU are desired to give a Speedy Resolution of these few Cases, because there are many more that deserve your Consideration.